

Application No. 09/537,137
Amendment "C" dated December 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed November 16, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a device having a plurality of electronic program guide (EPG) loaders that are each configured to receive EPG data from one or more EPG sources, a method for interfacing the one or more EPG loaders with a database associated with the device, the method comprising:

receiving, at each of a plurality of EPG loaders, EPG data from a different EPG data source;

collecting the EPG data from the EPG loaders at a writer module;

calling and executing a function of the writer module to store the EPG data in a database accessible by the device;

wherein execution of the function includes at least one of ~~(1) creating a new categorization system for storing the EPG data, (2) adding a new category to the database, (3) adding a subcategory pair to the database, (4) mapping a category pair to a specific program, removing~~ removing all EPG data from the database, ~~(5) removing all schedule data from the database, (6) removes and removing~~ a specific audio subchannel from the database, ~~(7) removing a specific categorization system from the database, (8) removes a specific category pair from the database, (9) removing a property from a weblink object in the database, (10) removing a specific sharing day from the database, (11) adding a unique sharing day to the database, or (12) linking a unique sharing day to a particular channel.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds a new audio subchannel format to the stored EPG data.

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3. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds a new audio subchannel to a schedule entry in the stored EPG data.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the function creates a new categorization system for storing the EPG data.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the function adds at least one of a new category and subcategory pair to the database.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 5, wherein the function maps a category pair to a specific program.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds a new EPG channel to the database.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein a function executed by the writer module removes all EPG data from the database.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that removes all channel data from the database.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein further including execution of another function of the writer module that removes all program data from the database.

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11. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein a function executed by the writer module removes all schedule data from the database.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein a function executed by the writer module removes a specific audio subchannel from the database.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein a function executed by the writer module removes a specific categorization system from the database.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein a function executed by the writer module removes a specific category pair from the database.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that removes a specific program from the database.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that removes a property from a program object in the database.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that removes a property from a schedule entry in the database.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein a function executed by the writer module removes a property from a weblink object in the database.

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19. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that removes a specific schedule entry from the database.

20-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that sets a preferred result for a condition.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds a new program to the database.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds an extensible name-value property to a specific channel.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds an extensible name-value property to a specific program.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds an extensible name-value property to a specific schedule entry.

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28. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds an extensible name-value property to a specific Weblink.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the function adds a new purchase string to a specific schedule entry.

30. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that maps a rating authority and rating to a specific program.

31. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that removes schedule entries and associated program, rating, category, property and Weblink data from the database prior to a specific time.

32. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds a new schedule entry to the database.

33-34. (Cancelled).

35. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that indicates a current set of updates to the database is complete.

36. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that indicates the current set of updates to the EPG services storage or database is complete.

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37. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that creates a relationship between a schedule entry and a video subchannel.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that adds a Weblink to the database.

39. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that maps a Weblink to a specific channel.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, further including execution of another function of the writer module that maps a Weblink to a specific program.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the function maps a Weblink to a specific schedule entry.

42. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for implementing the method recited in claim 1.

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43. (Currently Amended) In a device having a plurality of electronic program guide (EPG) loaders that are each configured to receive EPG data from one or more EPG sources, a method for interfacing the one or more EPG loaders with a database associated with the device, the method comprising:

receiving, at each of a plurality of EPG loaders, EPG data from a different EPG data source;

collecting the EPG data from the EPG loaders at a writer module;

calling and executing a function of the writer module to store the EPG data in a database accessible by the device;

calling a second function of a control module operating at the device that accesses the database to retrieve the EPG data and transmits the EPG data to the one or more applications; and

executing the second function by the control module, wherein execution of the second function includes ~~at least one of (1) disabling signaling of update events, (2) indicating that a new category has been added to the EPG data, (3) indicating that a new channel has been added to the EPG data, or (4) indicating that the EPG data within a particular time range has changed.~~

44. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a collection of names of known schemes for organizing programs by type.

45. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that returns a time in the future at which available data ends.

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46. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that returns a furthest time in the future when a program starts.

47. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that returns information to confirm if valid channel and guide listings exist in the database.

48. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that returns information to indicate if channel data exists in the database.

49. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a collection of strings for names of known schemes for organizing content ratings.

50. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a channels collection object.

51. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, wherein the function disables signaling of update events.

52-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a collection of names of main categories within a categorization system for a given categorization system name.

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55. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that returns channels matching a search value.

56. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 50, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves the Channels collection object for valid device channels with a particular channel number.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that returns information indicating whether EPG data is found for a range.

59. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a program object representing a program shown on a specified channel at a specified time.

60. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves an end time for a program.

61. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a length of a program shown.

62. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a rating object for a particular program.

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63. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves the start time for a particular program.

64. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a name of a program.

65. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that indicates that an event should be fired when any aspect of a known categorization system of the database changes.

66. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 65, further including execution of another function of the control module that indicates that the event should be fired when a new channel has been added to the database.

67. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that returns updates occurring within a particular time range.

68. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that returns all schedule time slots matching query values.

69. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that returns programs that match query values.

70-71. (Cancelled)

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72. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a collection object representing all time periods for programs whose title or description includes a particular case-insensitive string.

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, further including execution of another function of the control module that retrieves a collection of subcategory names for a given category name.

75. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, wherein the second function indicates that a new category has been added to the EPG data.

76. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, wherein the second function indicates that a new channel has been added to the EPG data.

77. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 43, wherein the second function indicates that the EPG data within a particular time range has changed.

78. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for implementing the method recited in claim 43.

79. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, further including resolving a conflict between EPG data received from the EPG loaders.

80. (Cancelled)

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81. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 79, wherein resolving the conflict includes allowing a user to select a conflict resolution scheme.

82. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 81, wherein allowing the user to select a conflict resolution scheme includes allowing a user to assign a priority to the EPG loaders.

83. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 79, wherein resolving the conflict includes allowing an application to select a conflict resolution scheme.

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84. (Previously Presented) In a device having a plurality of electronic program guide (EPG) loaders that are each configured to receive EPG data from one or more EPG sources, a method for interfacing the one or more EPG loaders with a database associated with the device, the method comprising:

receiving, at each of a plurality of EPG loaders, EPG data from a different EPG data source;

collecting the EPG data from the EPG loaders at a writer module;

upon determining at the writer module that there is a conflict in the EPG data received from at least two of the different EPG data sources, resolving the conflict according to conflict resolution criteria, wherein the conflict resolution criteria includes giving each EPG loader equal priorities, and wherein resolving the conflict includes giving precedence to EPG data that is received most recently;

calling a function of the writer module to store the EPG data in a database accessible by the device; and

executing the function by the writer module, thereby storing the EPG data in the database.

85. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for implementing the method recited in claim 84.